

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION OF)
PRICING REGULATION FOR SWITCHED)
ACCESS SERVICES PROVIDED BY)
COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS)**

**ORDER GRANTING
INTERVENTION**

TC10-014

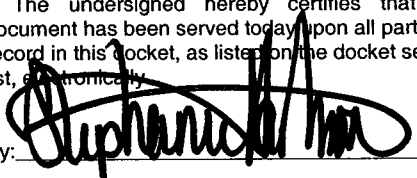
On January 5, 2010, Chairman Johnson requested the Commission to open a docket, pursuant to SDCL 49-31-4.1, to consider whether pricing regulation is appropriate for switched access services provided by competitive local exchange companies. SDCL 49-31-4.1 provides that if an investigation conducted by the Commission "indicates that pricing regulation is appropriate for any noncompetitive service because such regulation has a positive impact on universal service and is more reasonable and fair than rate of return regulation, the commission may adopt pricing regulation for any such noncompetitive service." The Commission unanimously voted to open the docket. Any interested person may file a petition to intervene on or before February 8, 2010. Parties shall file initial testimony on or before March 9, 2010. Reply testimony shall be filed on or before March 30, 2010. The hearing date shall be set in a subsequent order. On February 5, 2010, a Petition to Intervene of Verizon and Midcontinent Communications was filed and Northern Valley Communications filed a Petition for Leave to Intervene. On February 8, 2010, a Petition to Intervene of AT&T, SSTELECOM Inc, Sancom, Inc, SDTA, Sprint, R C Communications, Inc, and Midstate Telecom, Inc was filed. Qwest filed a Petition for Leave to Intervene on February 8, 2010.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.05.

At its February 23, 2010, meeting, the Commission found that the Petitions to Intervene of Verizon, Midcontinent Communications, AT&T, SSTELECOM Inc, Sancom, Inc, SDTA, Sprint, R C Communications, Inc, Midstate Telecom, Inc., Northern Valley Communications and Qwest demonstrated good cause to grant intervention and voted unanimously to grant intervention to Verizon, Midcontinent Communications, AT&T, SSTELECOM Inc, Sancom, Inc, SDTA, Sprint, R C Communications, Inc, Midstate Telecom, Inc., Northern Valley Communications and Qwest. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Petitions to Intervene of Verizon, Midcontinent Communications, AT&T, SSTELECOM Inc, Sancom, Inc, SDTA, Sprint, R C Communications, Inc, Midstate Telecom, Inc., Northern Valley Communications and Qwest are hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 1st day of March, 2010.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically.
By: 
Date: <u>3/1/10</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman


STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner


GARY HANSON, Commissioner